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6 December 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bruce Everett
International Energy Affairs
Federal Energy Administration

SUBJECT : Regional Distribution of Soviet Fuel
Reserves

Attached per your request are unclassified data on the regional distribution of Soviet resources of coal and natural gas. The USSR does not publish data on reserves of oil but the following information could be included in your unclassified general issues paper providing there is no attribution to this Agency.

The USSR has abundant resources of oil. Its proved reserves probably are about equal to those of the US, some 35 billion barrels. However, roughly half of these reserves are located in West Siberia where their exploitation is difficult and costly. About 30% are located in the Urals Volga and European USSR, and the remaining 20% in Central Asia and elsewhere. Potential reserves offshore in the Far East and in northern seas remain, thus far, largely unexplored.

5/
[Redacted]
Chief, Resources Branch
USSR/Eastern Europe Division
Office of Economic Research

STATINTL

Attachment:
as stated

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Soviet Geological Reserves of Coal, 1956^{1/}

	<u>Billion metric tons</u>
Total USSR	<u>8,670</u>
European Part of USSR	647
Donets Basin	(241)
Pechora Basin	(344)
Caucasus	2
Urals	8
West & East Siberia (southern part)	2,290
Kuznets Basin	(905)
Kansk-Achinsk Basin	(1,220)
East Siberia (northern part)	5,238
Taymyr Basin	(584)
Tungus Basin	(1,745)
Lena Basin	(2,647)
Northeast USSR	240
Transbaykal, Far East & Sakhalin	64
Kazakhstan	140
Central Asia	41

1/ Proved, probable and possible reserves to a depth of 1,800 meters.

SOURCE: USSR Ministry of Geology, Zapasy Ugley i Goryuchikh Slantsyev SSSR (Supplies of Coal and Combustible Shales in the USSR) Moscow, 1958, pp. 12-16.

Soviet Reserves of Natural Gas^{1/}
(Trillion cubic feet)

Region	19702/		1973	
	Volume	% of Total	Volume	% of Total
Total USSR	427	100	800 ^{3/}	100
European part of USSR	93	22	150 ^{4/}	19
West Siberia	250	58	510 ^{3/}	63
East Siberia and Far East	13	3	20 ^{4/}	2
Central Asia	71	17	120 ^{4/}	15

- 1/ Data refer to "explored" reserves, a Soviet designation that may be roughly equivalent to proved and probable reserves in Western terminology.
 2/ Pravda, 17 March 1972.
 3/ Stroitel'stvo Truboprovodov, #9, September 1974.
 4/ Estimated from information in various Soviet technical journals.